Swain's Lake Village Water District

P.O. Box 429
Barrington, NH 03825
February 3, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your cooperation in ensuring safe drinking water for the **Swain's Lake Village Water District's** water system. If we are careful, substances that could pollute our drinking water will never find their way to our wells.

Your property is located within the area from which water flows to our wells. As such, it is important that you're aware that what you do on your property could affect the quality of the water our system uses. Your activities can affect the water quality at your own property.

No one wants to drink polluted water. Who would pour gasoline, motor oil, paint, garden or lawn chemicals, or household chemicals into their drinking water? Yet, the equivalent is done when someone pours any of these products down their toilet, sink, or on to the ground. By following the Do's & Don'ts, backyard mechanics and the gasoline storage, handling, and disposal tips on the enclosed flyers, you can avoid activities, which could threaten water quality.

Please take the time to review and follow the instructions on the flyers. We need your help to protect this valuable source of drinking water.

The management and users of **Swain's Lake Village Water District** appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stan Swier Phil Treadwell Rick Patrie

Contact: (Stan) 603-664-2581

Swain's Lake Village Water District

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P.O. Box 429
Barrington, NH 03825
February 3, 2016

Dear Business Owner:

We would like to ask your cooperation in helping to ensure safe drinking water for yourself and for the **Swain's Lake Village Water District** water system. We are writing to you because your property is located in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) for this water system as delineated by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The SWPA is the area from which water – and any contaminants – are likely to flow to the water system's well. Furthermore, if your property is not served by a public water system, the water from the property is likely to flow to your well, too.

You are probably already aware that certain activities on your property can affect the quality of groundwater. Most people who have septic tanks are aware that their septic system discharges to the ground and thus to groundwater. Similarly, any gasoline, motor oil, paint, garden chemicals, lawn chemicals or other household chemicals that are spilled sprayed, spread, or dumped onto the ground can make their way into groundwater. Because your property is within the SWPA for a public water system, activities on your property that affect groundwater can also affect the public water supply. And if your property uses an on-site well, your own water supply can be affected.

Fortunately, you can minimize the likelihood of groundwater contamination by the following a few simple guidelines. Please take the time to review and follow the instructions on the enclosed pamphlet and Fact Sheet, and make sure all employees are aware of them. The Fact Sheet summarizes New Hampshire's Best Management Practices (BMP) Rules, Env-Wq 401. Compliance with these rules is mandatory if you use, store, handle, or dispose of regulated substances in greater that household quantities. By complying with these rules and implementing the suggested practices on the pamphlet, you can minimize the potential for groundwater contamination and for contamination of your drinking water and the public drinking water supply.

We need your help to protect this valuable source of drinking water. The management and users of this public water supply appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions about this letter, about the enclosed pamphlet, or about the protection of groundwater, please contact the Source Protection Program at (603) 271-8866.

Sincerely,

Stan Swier Phil Treadwell Rick Patrie
Contact: (Stan) 603-664-2581
Swain's Lake Village Water District

Is Gasoline Contaminating Your Drinking Water?

Gasoline is one of the most dangerous products commonly found around the home, yet people often store and use it with little care. Some of the chemicals in gasoline have been found in drinking water with increasing frequency, including benzene, toluene and MtBE (Methyl t-Butyl Ether), which is *easily dissolved in water* and is a possible carcinogen. Even a gasoline spills as small as a gallon can contaminate your drinking water wells or a public water supply.

To Protect Your Drinking Water From Gasoline

Avoid Spilling Gasoline on the Ground, Especially Near Wells

- Don't drain gasoline from lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc. onto the ground.
- Don't burn brush with gasoline.
- Don't top off your fuel tank.
- Keep refueling and engine work away from water supply wells, and if possible, over a concrete floor or similar barrier. Immediately clean up any gas or oil spills.

Avoid Spilling Gasoline in Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers

- Keep special gasoline-absorbing pads on your gas-powered boat and know how to use them.
- If you own a larger boat, make sure it has no-spill tank vents.
- Fill portable tanks from outboard boat engines on shore.
- Refuel snowmobiles and ice augers on shore; do not take gasoline storage tanks onto ice-covered ponds.

Store Gasoline Properly

- Use a clearly labeled container made for gasoline and with a spout to avoid spills.
- Keep gasoline containers in a dry, well ventilated shed or detached garage away from water supply wells. Don't keep metal gasoline cans on a dirt floor for extended periods.

Dispose of Waste Gasoline Properly

- Handle old or dirty gasoline as hazardous waste. Bring it to a household hazardous waste collection center in a proper gasoline container.

If a spill occurs: For *any size* spill that is not immediately cleaned up, first contact your local 911 responder or fire department, then call the DES emergency spill number at (603) 271-3899 (Mon-Fri, 8-4), or weekends and evenings at (603) 223-4381 (NH State Police).

Revised August 2011

Got Clean Drinking Water?

It's up to you!

The DOs and DON'Ts for maintaining clean Drinking Water

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

For more information please contact the Drinking Water Source Protection Program at (603) 271-7061 or visit our website: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/index.htm.

Where does your drinking water come from?

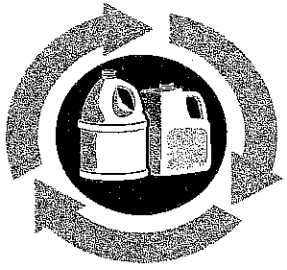
Your drinking water comes from either groundwater or surface water. Groundwater is the water that flows through the spaces between soil particles and through fractures in rock. It comes from rain and snowmelt percolating through the ground. Surface water comes from rainfall and snowmelt running over land and from *groundwater* seepage into lakes, rivers and reservoirs.

Why should you be concerned?

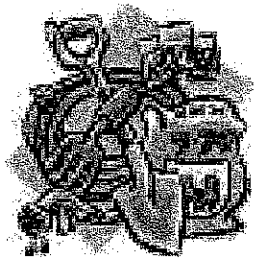
While some pollutants, such as bacteria, viruses and phosphorus, can be reduced by passing through soil under certain conditions, groundwater can be easily contaminated by chemicals and oils. Surface water is also affected by soil and pollutants picked up as water flows over land.

Keep Household Hazardous Wastes Out of your Drinking Water! Such as ...
Automotive Fluids • Auto Batteries • Used Motor Oil
Oil-Based Paint • Paint Thinner • Antifreeze
Pesticides • Cleaning products • Gasoline

DO –



- Use non-toxic and less-toxic alternatives to pesticides and household chemicals.
- Take leftover household chemicals to your town's household hazardous waste collection day.
- Follow package directions on pesticides, fertilizers and other household chemicals.
- Check your underground fuel storage tank (UST) frequently for leaks. If a UST is more than 20 years old, replace it with an aboveground storage tank that has a concrete slab underneath it, a cover and secondary containment.
- Take care of your septic system. Inspect it every year and get it pumped out every 3-5 years.
- Avoid damage to your leach field and distribution lines by keeping vehicles, livestock and other heavy objects off of them.
- Test soil every two years to determine existing nutrient levels and pH before applying fertilizers.
- Use slow or controlled release nitrogen sources of fertilizer.
- Measure the area of your lawn to be fertilized to determine how much to use and calibrate or adjust spreader settings to match the recommended rate for fertilizers.
- Use drip pans large enough to contain motor vehicle or power equipment fluids being replaced or drained.
- Fully drain oil over a drip pan or pail before disposal. Most solid waste transfer stations accept used oil filters for recycling. Store and transport used oil filters in a covered leak-proof container until disposal.
- Keep absorbent materials such as rags, pads, "Speedi-Dry" or kitty litter near the work area and clean up all spills as soon as they occur.
- Dispose of all used absorbents immediately in a leak-proof container.
- Refuel or repair engines over an impervious surface, such as a concrete floor or tarp.
- Drain all fluids from motor vehicle parts before removing them from the vehicle.
- Follow medicine disposal guidelines described at www.nh.gov/medsafety.



DON'T –

- Buy more pesticides or hazardous chemicals than you need.
- Dispose of hazardous chemicals by pouring them down the drain or onto the ground.
- Over-use pesticides or household chemicals. More is not necessarily better.
- Have your UST removed by a contractor who is not familiar with state guidelines for UST removal.
- Overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage disposal, unless the system is specifically designed for one.
- Pour chemicals down the sink or toilet.
- Use septic system cleaners or additives containing acids or chemical solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE).
- Use fertilizers if heavy rains are anticipated as the nutrients will be flushed from the lawn into drains and low areas.
- Apply fertilizers within 25 feet of most lakes and streams.

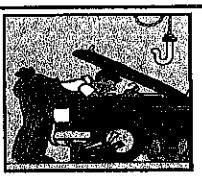
Best Management Practices for Backyard Mechanics and Hobbyists

Every year homeowners, backyard mechanics, and hobbyists spill or dispose of gas, oil, antifreeze and other motor vehicle or power equipment fluids that end up in the groundwater the majority of New Hampshire's residents use as a drinking water source.

Restoring contaminated groundwater can cost millions, and sometimes billions, of dollars. Here in New Hampshire an estimated $400,000/month is spent on remediation of MtBE alone, and that's only one of the constituents in gasoline that can pollute our drinking water.

Backyard mechanics and motor vehicle enthusiasts can easily help prevent groundwater contamination of drinking water supplies by following a few simple practices to prevent spills, leaks, and other potential sources of contamination. These practices are easy to follow and usually cost nothing but a little time and effort.

Did you Know?



- **Home vehicle repair enthusiasts in this country dump nearly 50 times more used oil on the ground in a year than the Exxon Valdes spilled in Prince William Sound.**
- **One quart of oil or ½ cup of gasoline can contaminate as much as 250,000 gallons of drinking water.**

- Never pour used oil, gasoline, transmission fluid, or antifreeze on the ground or down a drain. Local garages, waste transfer facilities, or household hazardous waste collection sites usually accept these used fluids for recycling, often for little or no charge.
- Refuel or repair engines over an impervious surface such as a concrete garage floor or a tarp on the ground. Always use a drip pan large enough to contain the motor vehicle or power equipment fluids being replaced or drained.
- Completely drain used oil filters over a drip pan or pail before disposal. Filters can take at least two days to fully drain. Many transfer facilities accept fully drained used oil filters for recycling. Store and transport used oil filters in a covered leak-proof container, like a plastic 5-gallon pail, until disposal.
- Always use a funnel or similar device when transferring new or used motor vehicle fluids from one container to another or from a container to the vehicle.
- Store as little gasoline or kerosene as possible around the home and always in UL-listed containers stored under cover and on an impervious surface. Make sure the containers' built-in spouts pour without spilling. Check all containers of motor vehicle fluids for leaks, at least once a month.
- Drain all fluids from used motor vehicle parts before removing them from the vehicle (Do this over a drip pan or impervious surface.) and store them on an impervious surface under cover or inside a covered leak-proof container, such as a large lidded tub.
- Keep absorbent materials such as pads, speedee-dri, kitty litter, or other clay-based products handy to the work area and clean up all spills as soon as they occur. Dispose of all used absorbents immediately in a leak-proof receptacle.

For additional information contact the Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-0688. Find additional information regarding pollution prevention and other waste recycling programs at the website www.des.nh.gov/waste programs.htm

ENVIRONMENTAL
Fact Sheet

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-DWGB 22-4 **2009**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Groundwater Protection

Sixty percent of New Hampshire residents rely primarily on groundwater for their drinking water. Recognizing the importance of protecting the natural quality of groundwater, the legislature passed the Groundwater Protection Act (RSA 485-C) in 1991. This legislation recognized that a wide variety of activities involve the use of materials that can, if not properly handled, contaminate groundwater. There have been numerous instances of groundwater contamination in New Hampshire from leaking storage facilities, improper waste disposal, accidental spills, and even from normal use of these materials. Potentially contaminating substances can be more safely managed if certain basic guidelines are followed. The Groundwater Protection Act directed the N.H. Department of Environmental Services to adopt rules specifying best management practices (BMPs) for the Potential Contamination Sources (PCSs) listed below.

DES developed and adopted N.H. Code of Administrative Rules Part Env-Wq 401 Best Management Practices for Groundwater Protection, (formerly Env-Ws 421) which apply to all potential contamination sources in the state. The BMPs within the rules are essentially common-sense operating practices that are simple and economical to implement. The purpose of the BMPs is to help prevent a release of regulated substances. Regulated substances include oil, as defined under RSA 146-A, III, regulated contaminants established pursuant to RSA 485-C:6, and hazardous substances listed under federal regulations at 40 CFR 302. Cleaning up the release of a regulated substance can be very expensive. Following the BMP rules reduces environmental liability and minimizes potential cleanup costs.

Potential Contamination Sources (PCSs)[1]	
• Vehicle service and repair shops • General service and repair shops • Metalworking shops • Manufacturing facilities • Underground and above-ground storage tanks • Waste and scrap processing and storage • Transportation corridors • Septic systems (at commercial and industrial facilities) • Laboratories and certain professional offices (medical, dental, veterinary	• Use of agricultural chemicals[2] • Salt storage and use • Snow dumps • Stormwater infiltration ponds or leaching catch basins • Cleaning services • Food processing plants • Fueling and maintenance of earth moving equipment • Concrete, asphalt, and tar manufacture • Cemeteries • Hazardous waste facilities
[1]As identified in New Hampshire's Groundwater Protection Act (RSA 485-C) [2]Subject to BMPs developed and administered by NH Dept. of Food, Agriculture, and Markets	

Summary of BMP for Groundwater Protection Rules

Storage

- Store regulated substances on an impervious surface.
- Secure storage areas against unauthorized entry.
- Label regulated containers clearly and visibly.
- Inspect storage areas weekly.
- Cover regulated containers[1] in outside storage areas.
- Keep regulated containers that are stored outside more than 50 feet from surface water and storm drains, 75 feet from private wells, and up to 400 feet from public wells.
- Secondary containment is required for regulated containers stored outside, except for on-premise use heating fuel tanks, or aboveground or underground storage tanks otherwise regulated.

Handling

- Keep regulated containers closed and sealed.
- Place drip pans under spigots, valves, and pumps.
- Have spill control and containment equipment readily available in all work areas.
- Use funnels and drip pans when transferring regulated substances; perform transfers over impervious surface.

Release Response Information

- Post information on what to do in the event of a spill.

Floor Drains and Work Sinks

- Cannot discharge into or onto the ground.

[1]Regulated container means any device in which a regulated substance is stored, transported, treated, disposed of, or otherwise handled, with a capacity of five gallons or more. The term does not include fuel tanks attached to and supplying fuel to a motor vehicle.

For more information on best management practices for groundwater protection visit the DES Drinking Water Source Protection webpage at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/index.htm, or contact the NH Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-0688.